

## **In support of HB 5277 March 7, 2022**

My name is Ruth Grobe, and I live in Farmington. As the Secretary of the Citizens Coalition For Equal Access and as a fully able person, I have been listening for years to several friends, many of whom are severely disabled, describe significant difficulties in getting equitable medical care. I am writing in support of HB 5277, but I am writing also to urge something with a larger focus than just the accessible diagnostic medical equipment that is so badly needed. I am writing to share my experience of watching my friends with disabilities being discredited, scolded, or ignored—at the mercy of dominant culture values such as accomplishing everything in as little time as possible and at the lowest cost. In my medical advocacy work, I have taken dictation from people with severe **speech disabilities, limited control** of their hands and fingers, and **limited or no hearing or vision**. These very same people do, however, have a lot **to say**, a deep commitment **to control their destinies**, and a **very strong vision** of what a society of equals that includes them might look like and benefit from. Despite these positives, I have personally witnessed or heard reliable accounts of the larger society's complete dismissal of what they have to say. As a social worker, I have never seen a group that was rendered so invisible by their fellow citizens.

PLEASE listen with true deep empathy to their testimony about their experiences with the health care system. Thank you very much,

Ruth Grobe, 10 Hearthstone Lane, Farmington, CT 06032